



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 30, 2007

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Engineering Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Contract For Federal Advocacy Services

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a \$74,988 three-year contract with Carpi, Clay, & Smith (Smith), for Federal Advocacy Services, for Surface Transportation Reauthorization funding.

DISCUSSION:

BACKGROUND

In 2005, the President of the United States signed the multi-year Federal Surface Transportation Authorization Legislation known as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). This Legislation, typically on a six-year reauthorization schedule, is similar to its predecessors, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). They are intended to meet the Country's changing transport needs and supply funds and framework to maintain and grow vital transportation infrastructure.

SAFETEA-LU authorizes highway, rail, transit and other intermodal projects to draw money from the Highway Trust Fund which is funded by the Federal Gas Tax. Although SAFETEA-LU was recently passed, it was enacted late and its reauthorization is therefore scheduled for 2009.

SAFETEA-LU has guaranteed funding totaling \$224.1 billion and represents the Country's largest surface transportation investment to date. A majority of the money will go to the states to manage and allocate funding for programs such as the State's Safe Routes to School Program, Surface Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and

REVIEWED BY: _____ Finance _____ Attorney

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Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (HBRR) Program, in which the City is successfully funding the replacement of the Cabrillo, Haley, and Ortega bridges over Mission Creek. California is estimated to receive approximately \$17.1 billion in apportionments for Fiscal Years 2005-2009.

However, SAFETEA-LU also provides a funding mechanism for special projects beyond state funding levels that meet true national economic significance. The 2009 Reauthorization Bill is anticipated to do the same, and the City is looking to it for assistance with special transportation project funding.

In Fiscal Year 2006, staff retained Smith to assist with preparing and presenting its needs for the 2009 Reauthorization Bill. Initial efforts identified projects that are of national economic significance and addressed nationally significant City access needs, such as improved regional City access and workplace surface transportation. Projects could include, but are not limited to: the Cottage Hospital Interchange Project, Metrolink Rail Extension Improvements, Highway 101/217 Interchange Construction, Santa Barbara Intermodal Train Station Flood Protection, plus Pedestrian Access at Sycamore Creek and Hitchcock Avenue were among those identified.

DISCUSSION

City staff is currently working with Smith to produce a Surface Transportation Access Project Prospectus, which will be coordinated with County and Regional transportation plans. Smith will use the Prospectus as the primary tool for advocating for federal funds, as it will identify the City Transportation Needs Statement and estimated initial project costs.

Although annual transportation appropriations from Congress may be obtained in limited amounts, staff believes that Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization legislation may be the only source of adequate matching funding available to the City that will help encourage additional state and local funding. The 2009 Reauthorization request would be approximately \$25-30 million, which would provide adequate funding to develop approved projects and advance them to construction-ready status for the 2013 Reauthorization funding.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are sufficient funds in the Streets Fund budget to cover contract costs. Under terms of the contract, expenditures are not to exceed \$2,083 per month.

PREPARED BY: Pat Kelly, Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer/LA/kts

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Casey, Acting Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office